

**HANSARD**  
**UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2017**  
**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

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## YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**Tuesday, October 3, 2017**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Hon. Glen Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Blake, Hon. Caroline Cochrane, Ms. Green, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Hon. Robert McLeod, Mr. McNeely, Hon. Alfred Moses, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Nakimayak, Mr. O'Reilly, Hon. Wally Schumann, Hon. Louis Sebert, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Testart, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Vanthuyne

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

### **Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Jackson Lafferty):** Good afternoon, Members. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Deputy Premier.

### **Ministers' Statements**

#### MINISTER'S STATEMENT 218-18(2): ORANGE SHIRT DAY

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since 2013, September 30th has been marked as Orange Shirt Day, a day for all Canadians to remember the survivors of the residential school system. Organizers chose an orange shirt as the symbol for that day based on a story told by Phyllis Jack Webstat, a survivor of the St. Joseph Mission Residential School in Williams Lake, B.C. In her story, Ms. Webstat tells of having a shiny, new orange shirt her grandmother had given to her being taken away on her first day at residential school.

We remember residential school survivors and their families on all days but especially on September 30th because it was around this time of year that children were taken from their homes to residential schools. It is also a time when schools have the opportunity to implement their inclusive, anti-bullying practices and policies for the coming year, setting the stage for education and learning about the impacts of residential schools that continue to echo today. Mr. Speaker, we are living in a new world where the need for reconciliation with Indigenous people is receiving more attention than ever before. We welcome this attention in the Northwest Territories, where approximately half of our population is Aboriginal, many of whom are survivors of residential schools.

Our government has been proud to lead the way in forging new relationships with Indigenous people and has made dealing with the legacy of residential schools a priority, including introducing a mandatory residential schools curriculum in 2012. We also remain committed to implementing the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Mr. Speaker, Orange Shirt Day is a reminder of the often troubled relationship between Indigenous people and the wider Canadian society, including governments, churches and schools. Repairing those relationships in a territory where many of us, including myself, have had experience with residential schools, will be critical to creating strong, healthy and inclusive communities.

Orange Shirt Day took place on Saturday, Mr. Speaker. As we did not sit on that day, Members are proud to be wearing orange in the Chamber today out of respect for the survivors of residential schools and as a symbol of our commitment to reconciliation.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister of Lands.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 219-18(2):  
RECREATIONAL LEASING MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK – CELEBRATING OUR  
SUCCESSSES

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our government recognized the importance of moving toward a stable and reliable recreational land use regime when we committed in our mandate to completing the Recreational Leasing Management Framework and a plan for the Yellowknife periphery area. The first part of our commitment, to develop the Framework, is now complete. The Recreational Leasing Management Framework was tabled in March, and on June 1<sup>st</sup>, I outlined the work needed to create a plan for recreational leasing in the areas around Yellowknife. The Department of Lands is now reviewing approaches for implementing the action items referenced under the Framework.

To advance the second portion of our commitment, the Department of Lands is completing section 35 consultation with Indigenous governments and organizations on a draft Yellowknife Periphery Area recreation management plan. The plan will provide the direction and guidance that the Government of the Northwest Territories needs in order to administer the lands outside and around Yellowknife, N'dilo, and Detah. Fundamental to this work is making sure that Aboriginal and treaty rights are considered, that we have provided accommodations where appropriate, and that we take the time to do meaningful consultation. We anticipate being able to release a draft Yellowknife periphery area plan for public review early in 2018, once our consultations are completed.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all those involved and the public for their continued cooperation and support on these initiatives. Our Department truly values the input we have received. It helps us ensure that the interests of Northerners are being heard as we work together to shape the direction of public land management in the Northwest

Territories. Mr. Speaker, in my second paragraph, I misspoke. I should have said “in June”, not “June 1”. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Ministers’ Statements. Minister for NWT Housing Corporation.

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 220-18(2):  
PROGRESS ON HOUSING MANDATE COMMITMENTS**

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to provide you with a report on the Government of the Northwest Territories’ progress on meeting its mandate commitments related to housing. Under the priority of Cost of Living of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, this government is committed to continuing to implement northern solutions for northern housing. Addressing homelessness is part of this commitment.

One of the related actions is our support for the Housing First project in Yellowknife. An agreement was signed with the Yellowknife Women’s Society to fund this project in the amount of \$450,000 over three years. This project also has the City of Yellowknife and the federal government as partners. This program has helped move 10 people, both men and women, out of homelessness, and we anticipate that many more will benefit from this project in the coming years.

Construction is also near completion on the building that forms the Yellowknife Women’s Society shelter. This project will see the creation of eight new semi-independent units within the building. It is expected that these units will be available for occupancy in November. We are also working with the Salvation Army in Yellowknife to add seven single-room suites in the Bailey House. These units will share a communal kitchen, common room, and washrooms. In smaller communities tenders have closed for the creation of eight independent single room occupancy units to address homelessness under the Northern Pathways to Housing program: four in Behchoko, and four in Fort Simpson. These units should be available this December.

This House has also heard me commit to ensuring that there are homelessness supports in all of our regions. Planning to alleviate homelessness in Fort Good Hope is underway and a housing unit there has already been donated to the Yamoga Housing Society for the purposes of this project. Finally, a comprehensive review of homelessness programming will be completed in the coming months, which will provide important information on how we can do things better and help more people.

Mr. Speaker, boarded up units in our communities are not only unsafe; they occupy valuable land that could be used for other housing projects. I committed that 100 units would be disposed of over a two-year period. I can report that in 2016-2017, 61 units were disposed of; 30 units were demolished and 31 units were sold. There are plans to dispose of 56 units this year.

Supporting responsible utility consumption also contributes to northern housing solutions. To this end, the transformation of the Public Housing utility structure continues. Specifically, electricity subsidies have been revised over the past two years so that tenants have more responsibility over their usage. Information on ways to

conserve electricity will be made available at all Local Housing Organizations, and distributed to all Public Housing tenants.

Supporting the housing aspirations of Indigenous governments is also part of the solution in addressing our urgent housing needs. A partnership with the K'atloodeeche First Nation has led to federal leases being obtained for lots on the Hay River Reserve that will facilitate the delivery of social housing on the Reserve. Another example of an Indigenous government partnership is the sale of surplus units to the K'asho Got'ine Government in Fort Good Hope, which will be used by the community to support their housing aspirations.

Having timely and responsive housing services in our communities is important to ensure that programming is effective and meets the needs of our residents. In terms of community-based property management, three new Local Housing Organizations have been established, in Whati, Gameti, and Fort Liard respectively. Management and administrative offices are open and maintenance staffing is underway for the new Local Housing Organizations. Engagement with these communities is occurring for the establishment of Local Housing Organization Boards and to ensure they have complete membership. In Wekweeti and Colville Lake, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation has been partnering with Government Service Officers to provide local administrative support. Local maintenance services are used to maintain and repair units whenever possible. These developments are helping to build and maintain local capacity with regards to Public Housing in all these communities.

Effective partnerships is key to leveraging our scarce resources. I have worked with our territorial partners in Nunavut and the Yukon to ensure that the federal government understands that we are different in the North. I, myself have engaged directly with my ministerial federal counterparts on a number of occasions, educating them about our northern context, and explaining what support would be useful as well as what we are bringing to the table. In the end, our needs speak for themselves. I will be holding the federal government accountable to assist in addressing that reality.

Another partnership involves ensuring that there is appropriate and consistent housing for community policing. We now have a formal arrangement with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police that will ensure that availability of housing is not a barrier to recruiting Royal Canadian Mounted Police members to our communities. These units, which are designed to the specifications of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, will be a mix of duplex and single-family- design homes as specified in a memorandum of agreement.

Mr. Speaker, the Legislative Assembly knows the importance of supporting our elders to remain in their home communities. Health outcomes are improved when our communities remain intact. To help with this, a Seniors Aging in Place repair and retrofit program has been introduced this year. This program provides assistance of up to \$10,000 dollars annually to help seniors with upgrades and energy-efficient retrofits that will complement our existing repair and maintenance assistance programs.

Good communication with our seniors is critical to ensuring our programs meet their needs and inform them how to participate in our housing programs. Targeted communications campaigns directed at seniors have been successful in increasing the

uptake of homeownership programming, especially to the preventative home maintenance program. Three seniors' independent housing nine-plexes have been built in Aklavik, Fort Liard, and Whati. Similar complexes in Fort Good Hope and Fort McPherson are slated for completion by March 2018 and September 2018, respectively. These complexes provide a safe, secure home for Elders, allow for healthy programming in common areas, and have on-site property management. All of these programs and initiatives are helping seniors to remain independent and in their communities for as long as possible.

Finally, developing northern solutions for northern housing should not be done without consulting those that know best: the users of the housing programs, our residents. A comprehensive housing engagement survey was undertaken earlier this year. Nearly 1,500 surveys were completed, or approximately one out every 10 households in the Northwest Territories, which represents a very successful engagement with people and communities. This invaluable input is being used to guide strategic housing renewal, including the redesign and development of housing programs and services to provide a greater future with adequate, affordable, and suitable housing for all residents of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of what has been accomplished on housing halfway through our term. Although the work is not complete and there are many challenges ahead, I commit to supporting and directing the development of programs and policies that align with the mandate of this Legislative Assembly. I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with Members of the Legislative Assembly, Ministers and other orders of government, and stakeholders to advance northern solutions for northern housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Ministers' statements. Minister of Infrastructure.

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 221-18(2):  
MARINE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories is nearing the successful completion of its first season delivering Marine Transportation Services to communities on the Mackenzie River and Arctic coast. The delivery of essential goods by tug and barge to our communities on Great Slave Lake, the Mackenzie River, and the Arctic coast sustains the vital services that our communities rely upon. Since early July when the first tug and barge tow of the season departed Hay River, GNWT Marine Transportation Services has successfully delivered all of the critical petroleum products and deck cargo to all scheduled communities and clients and has met all of its commercial marine charter commitments.

This season, Marine Transportation Services registered and reactivated six tugboats, transported more than 37 million litres of fuel and carried more than ten thousand tonnes of deck cargo to communities and industry clients. This cargo includes diesel fuel, jet fuel, gasoline, construction materials, prefabricated housing units, heavy equipment, vehicles, and consumer goods. At the GNWT Hay River Shipyard, they completed maintenance work on Canadian Coast Guard vessels that provide critical support to navigation and shipping on NWT waters. Substantial charter work was also



accomplished for large industrial clients. In this way, Marine Transportation Services supports small and large businesses, industrial operations, and stimulates economic development in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, Marine Transportation Services also provides important employment opportunities to residents, supporting the development of a strong northern workforce. For the 2017 season, the Department of Infrastructure engaged a marine crewing contractor to recruit and employ capable personnel to operate GNWT Marine Transportation Services. At the peak of the season, more than 140 people were employed, and 60 of those employees were Northwest Territories residents. In addition to the employment generated, Marine Transportation Services has purchased more than \$2.6 million dollars in goods and services from Northwest Territories businesses so far this year.

Mr. Speaker, this is a challenging business. To achieve these successes during its first operating season, Marine Transportation Services overcame many obstacles, including the challenge of moving the vessels necessary for community resupply from Inuvik to Hay River at the beginning of the season; and addressing several years of deferred maintenance of the tugs, barges, shipyard, and terminals. High water levels in the Mackenzie River delayed the Canadian Coast Guard's buoy and navigation aid setup, and delays in supplier shipments of cargo fuel resulted in temporary delivery delays to two communities. The Government of the Northwest Territories will use the lessons that we have learned this season to implement strategies to enhance our operations in future years. Drawing upon this experience, we are developing a long-term business and operating model for Marine Transportation Services; one that will best use business revenues to stabilize costs of essential marine services and enable the success of future operations.

Mr. Speaker, our investment in Canada's northernmost inland shipyard and in this tug and barge fleet signals that we value and support the Mackenzie River as a corridor for commerce and transportation. At the Port of Hay River, the most northerly connection of the continental railway system meets Canada's longest river. A reliable shipping route for generations, the Mackenzie River is the northernmost link of an intermodal supply chain that stretches from the Gulf of Mexico to the Beaufort Sea and beyond. The Mackenzie River is truly our marine highway to the Arctic Ocean. Continued improvement of marine operations in the territory depends upon investment in infrastructure, such as landings and wharves, channel maintenance through dredging, and improved charting and navigational aids.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is pursuing opportunities for funding that may be available through initiatives such as the federal Oceans Protection Plan to improve the state of marine infrastructure in the territory. The Department of Infrastructure has developed a list of priority marine infrastructure that requires improvement and has identified opportunities for investments to increase the safety and efficiency of marine operations. These include improvements to port and shipyard assets, intermodal facility improvements, harbour dredging, dock repairs, and maintenance at ferry landings and at all marine-served communities.

Mr. Speaker, we will build upon the success of the 2017 season. The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to ensuring that residents who rely on marine transportation services will get essential goods at a reasonable cost and get them without fail, while making strategic investments in marine transportation, creating jobs, and stimulating the economy of the Northwest Territories.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Ministers' statements. Deputy Premier.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 222-18(2):  
PREMIER ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise Members that the honourable Bob McLeod will be absent from the House today to attend the first Ministers' meeting in Ottawa, Ontario. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Nunakput.

**Members' Statements**

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
IMPACT OF PROPOSED TRANSPORT CANADA AIR SAFETY REGULATIONS

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Northerners have long been frustrated with poorly-designed laws and public policy made in southern Canada with no regard for the reality of life in the NWT. This is why the GNWT worked so hard to get a deal on devolution. It is too bad devolution did not include control of aviation. Maybe then Northern airlines would not be worried about staying in business when proposed pilot fatigue regulatory changes are brought forward by Transport Canada.

Mr. Speaker, these controversial changes would put restraints on pilot flying time, such as capping shifts and restricting the number of take-offs and landings. This will negatively affect the northern aviation industry. Pilots will be tied up for longer periods of time, and companies will pay more for more pilots, or take longer periods to get the same amount of work done.

Small business operators in my riding and across the North are extremely worried about these new provisions and the possible impacts on small Northern airlines such as Aklak Air and North Wright Airways. I have been told that many smaller operators will have to reassess the viability of their businesses. A number of small regional airlines have already said the regulations will force them out of business. This can mean everything from reduced access to air transportation, loss of medevac services, loss of forest fighting services, loss of access to food and essentials, or at the very least, significant increase in costs of those goods and services to communities that can least afford it.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time we have felt the impact of southern political objectives that do not align with the best interests of northern communities. In this case, the proposed changes stem from recommendations made by the US National

Transportation Safety Board, as a result of a 2009 air accident in New York state. Critics of this proposal point out that the new rules were designed with pilots of commercial jetliners in mind, not the bush pilots, medevac pilots, and others who do work such as transferring fuel from barges and ferrying people and materials to mining camps.

Mr. Speaker, Northern aviators care about pilot fatigue. They tell me pilot fatigue has never been the cause of a serious accident in Canada, let alone the North. Today, I am asking the Minister of Infrastructure to step up on their behalf, engage with his colleagues in Nunavut and Yukon, and let the federal government know, yet again, that they do not have the knowledge to speak for Northerners.

Quyanainni, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Member for Yellowknife North.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RACISM, VIOLENCE AND NEED FOR PRINCIPLED LEADERSHIP

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, racism and hatred is a very painful subject. We might like to think society has moved beyond racism, but it is still with us. It is as fresh and ugly as it has ever been, and it is hard to know how to combat it, to somehow undo the pain that it causes. Today in this house we wear orange shirts and orange pins as a reminder of that pain.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning I was reflecting on the news of the terror attacks in Las Vegas and Edmonton when I looked out the window and watched kids from my neighbourhood getting on the school bus. I could feel anger welling up inside me, realizing that innocent children have to grow up in this world where hatred and violence are now everyday occurrences.

Recent events in the world make it clear that hatred thrives. We can blame President Trump, but there are many other examples of hatred and intolerance embraced by people of all backgrounds, religions, and colours. Mr. Speaker, the people in this Chamber are leaders in our communities. We occupy a position of privilege based on our experience, desire to build a better world, and support of our constituents. What can we do, as principled leaders, to try to combat hatred in the world today? I think we must be very deliberate to demonstrate respect for others. When we have principled leadership, the tone of our society will be respectful and caring, and will not tolerate the condemnation and the scorn of others.

We need to be careful to exercise leadership in a positive and constructive way. If we see individuals, groups, or organizations encouraging extreme behaviour through fear and rage, we must call it out. The example we set and the tone in which we speak conveys important things about our character and our leadership. That is why I refer to it as "principled leadership," and it is why I strive to exemplify these values. My own benchmark, the decisions or actions will always be, is it the right thing to do? Would I accept someone doing that to me? Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I have said it before. I believe justice must be a passion that we channel when we consider racial, cultural, and sexual diversity. Let us remember, injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

When I watch those kids boarding that school bus yesterday, I felt upset that they may discover these ugly truths, but I also realize that they do not know hate. They will not know hate unless someone teaches them. If those kids learn racism and hatred, the haters will have won. Maybe that is what we can do, Mr. Speaker. We can act as principled leaders and be the best people we can possibly be, and let us always be mindful of what we say and how we act. Let us demonstrate compassion and generosity because it is the right way to build the future that we want, and it is the future our kids deserve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Member for Kam Lake.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ORANGE SHIRT DAY

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, each year, Orange Shirt Day is recognized on September 30<sup>th</sup>, and this year that date falls on a Saturday, so I decided to devote my time today to speaking on an occasion that grows more important each year as our society works towards reconciliation between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians, and also the constant recognition of residential school survivors. Mr. Speaker, last week, I was honoured to attend a school assembly for Orange Shirt Day at N.J. MacPherson School in my riding, and it was great to see children from junior kindergarten all the way to grade five, participating in this important recognition of the wrongs of the past.

Mr. Speaker, this important day is an opportunity for communities to come together and support a reconciliation and the future of all children. It all originates with a woman who was once a little girl named Phyllis. Phyllis Webstad is Northern Shuswap from Dog Creek, British Columbia. When she turned six years old, she was brought to the St. Joseph Mission residential school for one school year in 1973. When she arrived, they stripped her, and her clothes were taken away including an orange shirt she had picked out with her grandmother. From then on, the colour orange always reminded her of this outrageous treatment at the hands of people who were supposed to care for her, but instead, made her feel worthless. For many years, those feelings would haunt Phyllis and cause her to make decisions that would have a negative impact on her life until one day she decided to start telling her story.

Mr. Speaker, that story has grown into an annual day of recognition and remembrance where we discussed the trauma of residential schools, and how it has affected countless Indigenous people and their families. I would like to personally thank Phyllis Webstad for lighting a spark that grew into an opportunity to learn from history, to not rewrite the wrongs of the past, and to always remember the troubled legacy of residential schools in Canada, and acknowledge that legacy so that we can all reconcile with these hard truths and move towards a brighter future together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statement. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
ELDERS' CIRCLE ADULT DAY PROGRAM**

**MS. GREEN:** Mr. Speaker, Yellowknife has a rapidly growing population of seniors, and they have a growing list of needs so they can remain in their own homes for as long as possible. One of those needs is a day program that provides for their social and emotional well-being, and gives their caregivers respite.

Starting in January 2011, Avens provided a day program to meet those needs called Elders' Circle. It operated until last fall when it closed. Staff said the closure was temporary, pending an evaluation of the program's safety and quality. The Yellowknife Association for Community Living stepped in to fill the gap until the end of March when they were told the program at Avens would reopen.

Mr. Speaker, here we are a year later, and the Elders' Circle day program is still closed. When I asked about the future of the program last week at the Avens annual general meeting, I was told the organization has no plans to relaunch the program. The Avens' board vice-president said they cannot afford to restart the program. The organization is already challenged to provide its core services, namely independent housing and long-term care, and there is no money to provide a day program as well.

Mr. Speaker, when I raised this issue in the spring session, the Minister said he was waiting for the review of the Elders' Circle program and the continuing care plan to be completed before he could make any commitments. The Minister tabled the continuing care plan last week. It does mention adult programming in the context of providing space in new seniors' housing. It also talks about expanding day programs throughout the territory with local municipalities. It is unclear how either of these options apply in Yellowknife. In the meantime, the department has completed a review of the Elders' circle program at Avens but has not yet made it public.

Where does that leave seniors and their caregivers who use the Elders' Circle? Nowhere, Mr. Speaker. Whether the day program is offered by Avens or by Yellowknife Association for Community Living or another community partner, the bottom line is that Yellowknife needs an adult day program and we need it now. I will have questions for the Minister. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statement. Member for Frame Lake.

**MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
RESOURCE AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION (REDI) INITIATIVE**

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment received a briefing on the Resource and Energy Development Information campaign from Industry, Tourism and Investment last week. It was formally announced on June 22<sup>nd</sup> by the Minister when he said that it "will ensure these resources are used safely and sustainably." This sounds a lot like trying to build public confidence in our ability to develop resources in a responsible way. I would have

thought that that should be our approach given the failed attempt to regulate hydraulic fracturing in the last Assembly.

Having met the Minister and his staff and reviewed the materials, this campaign is clearly about promoting resource development, something that ITI is very good at. It is not about providing balanced information about the benefits and risks of resource development or about providing opportunities for our citizens to be involved in decision-making around resource development. There is virtually no discussion of any negative environmental or socio-economic impacts, about trade-offs, or effectiveness of current efforts to manage resource development.

This campaign is about doing more of the same rather than introducing innovative ideas that would truly build public confidence in our decision making. Here are a few examples of what we could and should be doing:

- Appoint a science advisor to support informed decisions by Cabinet such as the recent initiative by our federal government;
- Establish an intervener funding program to level the playing field and ensure that Aboriginal governments, communities, and organizations can meaningfully participate in resource development decisions;
- Re-establish a roundtable on the economy and environment to facilitate a dialogue between NGOs and business interests, and to provide independent research on issues of the day;
- Set up an independent panel of experts to investigate and provide recommendations on whether the NWT should allow fracking, and under what terms and conditions; and
- Complete land use plans and protected areas to empower the conversation economy.

Pardon the pun, Mr. Speaker, but REDI will not get us ready for resource development. I will have questions for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment later today. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON STRATEGIC SPENDING ON SENIORS SERVICES

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Marci Cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak about the lack of strategic spending on the part of the GNWT. The GNWT must increase the amount of money they spend strategically. I am going to speak about an easy one, low hanging fruit, as the saying goes.

Mr. Speaker, seniors care spending is the first scenario that I will speak of. The NWT Housing Corporation could retrofit seniors' homes designed to keep them in their homes and in their communities for an extra ten years on an average of \$70,000 per unit. Mr. Speaker, these units could be brought to a barrier free or seniors-friendly level. If the

needs of the various nuclear groups has not changed significantly since 2000 which indicated that seniors' household have the highest average need of about 30 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, just for information, on the other side of the spectrum, couples with no children have a core need under 5 per cent, the non-seniors singles and families are somewhere in between the two. However, Mr. Speaker, I do not know 100 per cent if seniors still have a higher need than single

Mr. Speaker, there are number seniors lead households and 30 per cent of them are in need. Mr. Speaker, if we were to take the 300 seniors homeowners and we were to retrofit their units including energy upgrades, not only would we be taking many seniors out of core need, but we would keep them out of long term care for years. Mr. Speaker, long term care costs the government about \$140,000 per senior per year.

Mr. Speaker, you can do the calculations. Over a ten-year period, each senior that remains at home would defer \$1,400,000. You can multiply that by 300. Mr. Speaker, that is \$420,000,000 over ten years of cost deferral to the GNWT.

Mr. Speaker, this can be completed over four years at about 75 households per year at about \$5,000,000 per year. In addition, Mr. Speaker, that calculates to about 60 to 70 jobs plus businesses for building supply companies. This would benefit the NWT immensely. Finally, Mr. Speaker, we can employ homecare workers and make the seniors stay at home easier. Maybe about another 30 employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR: SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Member for Nahendeh.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NAHANNI BUTTE WILDFIRE EVACUATION

**MR: THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on September 7<sup>th</sup>, while on a regional tour, I was travelling into the communities of Nahanni Butte. Arriving into the community, the weather was good. During our visit, the wind shifted and started to pick up. By the end of the day, we witnessed smoke and some ashes start to engulf the community.

Upon my return to Fort Simpson, I received an update from the Department of MACA about the situation. No emergency at that point. Unfortunately, with Mother Nature anything can change in a heartbeat. During Thursday night, the community leaders decided that it was best to evacuate the community members to across the river for the safety of the elders and others. During this time, the regional NWT Power Corporation, ENR, and MACA staff were engaged with the situation.

About 10 p.m. that night, an ENR staff member drove to the community to provide water and gas for the evacuees. As well, they provided guidance for remaining residents on how to protect their community. Later, the community decided that they should evacuate everybody to Fort Liard. There were approximately 80 evacuees and what impressed me was that the community of Fort Liard was able to house the residents and look after them on such short notice. Normally, Fort Simpson is the location identified as the place to go who are prepared for this type of situation. The next day, the situation got a bit

worse and it was recommended that evacuees stay in Fort Liard for at least another day. At this point in time, the Emergency Measures Operation Committee was activated.

During this trying time, I witnessed the committee work together. In my former job, I had the opportunity to be part of the committee. It still impresses me the work they do. It is like they have emergencies daily. All the departments were engaged doing their respective roles. All evacuees returned to Nahanni Butte on September 9<sup>th</sup> with no incidents.

Mr. Speaker, in the final Executive Incident Report submitted on September 11<sup>th</sup>, it was stated that the wildfire was approximately 8,000 hectares in size and located approximately 5 km southwest of Nahanni Butte. With these facts presented, it is understandable how the community saw this as an emergency and took action. Overall, the safety measures were taken to keep residents safe, and an emergency response was acted upon in adequate time. ENR will continue to action and monitor the wildfire until it is out, eliminating the fire threat for the community. I would like to thank the departments who were part of the EMO committee, and I'd like to thank the residents of Nahanni Butte. I will have questions for the Minister later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR: SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Member for Deh Cho.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ELDER ABUSE

**MR. NADLI:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a quick scan of headlines in recent years provides a startling snapshot of the growing problem of elder abuse in our communities. A 2010 report found that up to three-quarters of all elder abuse in the territory was financial abuse, ranging from pressure to make purchases to cover family members' expenses to direct theft of cash or debit and credit cards. In 2011, we heard a call for improved data tracking that we might better understand the scope of the problem. In 2015, a new report confirmed that financial abuse and neglect continued as sources of elders' suffering in our territory.

Today, in 2017, we are halfway through the term of a five-year action plan created by the NWT Network to Prevent Abuse of Older Adults. This plan sought the GNWT's support and called on the government to engage Government Service Officers in championing elder abuse prevention, to collaborate with NGOs, and to implement a centralized reporting system for all cases of elder abuse.

Still, the abuse persists.

[English translation] In my riding, I have heard of situations where young people take elders' debit cards and withdraw all available funds, leaving elders fearful that they will not have enough money for even basic food and shelter. This is a particular worry for elders on fixed incomes and for those already bearing additional emotional and financial responsibility in caring for their children and grandchildren. [Translation ends].

Mr. Speaker, Dene tradition tells us that elders are to be held in the highest regard. In the Canada of today, though many elders have lived through significant hardships, most of this was directly implemented by the state as in the residential school system or as



part of colonialist policy on First Nations communities. These continue to impact younger generations: high rates of drug and alcohol addictions, as well as chronically scarce employment, create conditions in which abuse can take root.

As the government of today, we have a responsibility to address this historical negligence. I do not want to see the same headlines in ten years, Mr. Speaker. We know that the NWT population is aging and that the number of elders and seniors will continue to grow. They deserve to live in safety, confident in the support of their communities, and their government. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR: SPEAKER:** Masi. Members' statements. Member for Sahtu.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL AND ORANGE SHIRTS

**MR: MCNEELY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I wear the orange shirt in recognition of residential school, a traumatized history for the First Peoples of Canada. Being a residential school survivor, looking back to the days on boarding a De Havilland airplane in September and returning in June, it's an experience I would rather not at any choice force on today's children.

Advancing forward as said by Senator Murray Sinclair, Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission or TRC when asked, "Why don't we forget and move on?" Replied by saying, "Why don't we forget 9/11 or the veterans of World War 2?"

Mr. Speaker, preserving our history is incumbent upon us as we move forward with Canada 150. In our jurisdiction, show of preservation history is what the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is pro-actively doing by including TRC in the curricular system. I commemorate the ones that have passed on and left us. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR: SPEAKER:** Masi. Item 3, members' statements. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in gallery. Member for Yellowknife North.

#### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome and recognize Yacub Adam, who is a resident of the Yellowknife North constituency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR: SPEAKER:** Masi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. I'd like to recognize Yacub Adam as well. He is also a member of the NWT Human Rights Commission. Later on, we will be tabling the annual report. Masi for being here with us. Those that we may have missed in the gallery, thanks for joining us. It's always great to have an audience as part of our proceedings. Masi.

Item 7, acknowledgments. Member for Hay River North.

## Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT XX-18(2):  
MRS. CHRISTINE SIMPSON, RESIDENT OF HAY RIVER

**MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know we're not supposed to have favourites, but today I want to wish a happy 94th birthday to my favourite constituent, Mrs. Christine Simpson. At 21 years old, Mrs. Simpson left her native England for Canada, arriving on Valentine's Day, 1945. After spending two years in northern Alberta, she settled in Hay River in 1948. She calls Hay River home to this day, as do many of her nine children, 29 grandchildren, and many great- and great-great-grandchildren. She is known in the community for her kind heart and gentle soul. Happy birthday, Nana.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Acknowledgements. Item 8, oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

## Oral Questions

QUESTION 914-18(2):  
YELLOWKNIFE ADULT DAY PROGRAM

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. As I said in my statement, the closure of the Elders Circle adult day program is clearly not temporary. The service provider has no plans to restart it because they cannot afford to do so. My question is: what is the Minister going to do to get an adult day program up and running in Yellowknife? Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to meet with the board of Avens earlier in September, and it was clear to me at that meeting that they are very passionate about the programs and services that they provide. There is certainly an interest in doing a day program, but at this point in time, they indicated that they want to focus on the delivery of core services that they are providing so that they can continue to provide an incredibly high level of services to their residents. Right now, given some of the financial pressures, they had to make some hard choices, and they are focused on their clients.

They have indicated to me that at some point, obviously, they would like to move forward with a day program, but their first priority has to be their core services. They have indicated to me that when they do explore the possibility of establishing a day program, they are certainly going to use the report that was done in cooperation between the Department of Health and Social Services and Avens at the foundation for moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. GREEN:** The Minister had his official study the Elders Circle program at Avens' request, and I believe that a report was produced by territorial staff and shared with Avens in the summer. When is the Minister going to make this report available to the Standing Committee on Social Development and to the public?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** The Member has described the process. She did not get it exactly right. In fact, the Department of Health and Social Services collaborated with the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services authority and Avens staff to conduct a review of the previous day program; so it is a joint report that was prepared.

We did provide that final copy to the board, who has had an opportunity to review it, and they have indicated that they are comfortable with us sharing this document. It is a shared document. I was not comfortable releasing it without their support. They have indicated their support, and I will be sharing it with Members this week.

**MS. GREEN:** I appreciate the Minister's willingness to share that report. The report, I gather, sets out what is required for a quality and safe program for elders in Yellowknife. My question is: how is the Minister going to provide that? Does it all depend on Avens, or is he going to put out an RFP so that other non-profits can bid on it?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Our first priority is to work with Avens because they have been a high-quality provider of services in the past, and in many ways, they still are. They are providing high-quality core services to their residents. When Avens does consider re-establishing the program once their finances are in order, they were hoping to use or they, rather, intend to use the report that was provided and will be shared to help them design a safe, effective, and responsive day program. Our first priority is to work with them to see if we could find a way to get to that place. If we cannot, obviously, we will have to look at alternatives, but in the meantime, to start, we are working with Avens.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MS. GREEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Avens was very clear that they have no plans to restart this day program. I do not understand what the delay is in the Minister finding a new service provider or a collection of service providers, how about Yellowknife Seniors and Yellowknife Day Care, to provide this day program. We cannot be held hostage. Our elders cannot be held hostage because Avens is experiencing its own financial issues. The Minister needs to be proactive in providing a day program. When is that going to happen? Mahsi.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** To be clear, Avens indicated that they are not planning to reinitiate the day program at this time, but there is certainly consideration for doing it at some point. Because they have been such a valuable partner in the provision of services to seniors in Yellowknife, we are hoping to continue that relationship, but I have acknowledged that, should we not be able to do that, we will certainly look at other alternatives. Immediately, our first priority needs to be working with Avens to make sure that they are delivering and continue to deliver the high-quality core programs they do, which would hopefully lead to a position where they can support day programs. They never said, Mr. Speaker, that they are never going to deliver a day program. They said at this time their priority has to be core services. That is what we are helping them do, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

QUESTION 915-18(2):  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEMS IN NAHANNI BUTTE

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up on my Member's statement with questions for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Speaker, since the community initiated the evacuation to Ford Liard, does the department cover the costs incurred by the community of Nahanni Butte? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Municipal governments are actually responsible for evacuation plans. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs works with them to develop their emergency evacuation plans and also to review them. If the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs asked residents to leave because we have deemed a need for an evacuation, then we will cover the costs. If the community takes it upon themselves to ask people to leave, then it is up to the community to deal with those costs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for that answer. During this situation where they evacuated, halfway through, all of a sudden the EMO committee was activated, and they actually encouraged the residents to stay in Ford Liard. With that extra day of costs, will the department be covering those costs?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Absolutely. On the second day of evacuation, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs decided that it would be better to keep the residents out of the community for an extra day. Those costs would be covered, and we have just got the municipality collecting those at this time.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for that answer. I think the community will be happy to at least get some of their costs back, and I greatly appreciate it. In normal situations, Fort Simpson is the location where people get located to. Unfortunately the community, with the ferry and that, decided to go to Fort Liard. Fort Liard did a great job, but will the department be looking at getting the community of Fort Liard better prepared for future situations so that they can actually evacuate to Fort Liard instead of Fort Simpson, which has to rely on a ferry system?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Yes, after any kind of an emergency or an evacuation within a community, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs does do a review of the situation to see if there are issues that we could make better. I do want to put a call out to the community of Nahanni Butte. They did an awesome job of the evacuation. It was without incident. They did a really great job. There were some things, like I say, transferring to Fort Liard when they should have gone to Fort Simpson. Those are issues that we are looking at to see if we can make their plan better for the next time - hopefully not next time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with you. I hope it never has to happen again. Unfortunately, in my 23 years, I have seen a number of evacuations. I

am hoping that you are going to be working with the Hamlet of Fort Liard so they can be better prepared. My last question is about the communication system. Unfortunately, the community used Facebook as their way of getting information out about how to evacuate, and the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs used emergency bulletins and web pages to get that information. However, when the community evacuates, they are on the other side of the river. They do not have access to this information, or they cannot get this information. Will the Minister or the Department be looking at a better way of communicating so that the people can continue to do a better job at evacuating?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Yes, as stated earlier, any time that there is a major disaster, in this case, an evacuation, we do review all the techniques that were used, the tactics, and see if we can make them better. Some communities, I hate to say that are in better situation than others. I know market communities, they will put them on public service announcements. They have webpages. They have radio announcements

Smaller communities unfortunately do not often have that service, so sometimes it is a matter of communities actually having to go door-to-door to get people evacuated. Nahanni Butte did have cell service so that helped them. When we were bringing people back and asking them to stay longer, we actually coordinated that with the band manager who did a really great job in this case of actually communicating to the residents of Nahanni Butte, but it is something that we need to look at, and to see if there are ways that we can improve communications for residents, especially in the smaller communities where they do not have the services that market communities do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Frame Lake.

#### QUESTION 916-18(2):

#### RESOURCE AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION INITIATIVE

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. My questions are for the Minister of Industry who is leading the Resource and Energy Development and Information campaign or REDI. Can the Minister explain how REDI is supposed to build public confidence in our ability to develop resources in a responsible way? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Based on the Member's statement today and from when he was in committee last week, I think there is a disconnect from how his vision of REDI is and what our vision of REDI is. REDI is a fact-based information based on risks and potential of resource and energy development in the Northwest Territories, and that is how we are taking part in engaging the public in the NWT.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks to the Minister for that response, and I guess we can agree to disagree, but somehow, I would hope that he would agree that building public

confidence in our ability to manage resource development is something that we should be working towards. The REDI campaign, though, seems to be partially in response to the attempt to regulate fracking during the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly. I could locate only two handouts or five pages on fracking and REDI materials, and there is not much discussion in there about impacts or tradeoffs.

In many other jurisdictions in Canada, they have done examinations of this issue through expert panels, independent panels, and that includes the Yukon. While we have time, would the Minister commit to an independent panel to examine and report on the issues of whether we should allow fracking in the NWT, and under what terms and conditions?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** The short answer is, no. The government is going to be carrying out our Petroleum and Resource Act on oil and gas operations in the very near future. This is going to give residents of the Northwest Territories an opportunity to discuss what level of transparency they want to see in hydraulic fracturing. We will bring that forward at the time. There will probably be a number of questions around hydraulic fracturing, I believe, when we go out with this, as it was a big subject on the last Assembly. They are going to know what kind of fluids are used, or additives, and these sort of things, and transparency and confidentiality provisions, these sorts of things that are in that act, and we will be bringing those forward when we go forward, as I said, with the Petroleum Resource and Oil and Gas Act.

**MR. O'REILLY:** I look forward to that process of building confidence and trust as we move forward, but one of the biggest obstacles to ensure public confidence in our resource development decisions and to ensure timely and informed decisions is a lack of any participant or intervener funding programs. Canadians south of 60 degrees north have a right to participant funding in federal environmental assessments while we do not. Why is participant funding not part of the REDI campaign?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** The Member brought this up when we were in the briefing on REDI. At that point, if I said, that these are all worthy considerations that can be considered by Members of Cabinet, and I recommended at that time that he can bring them forward in a letter to us, and we can be able to look at those initiatives moving forward, but REDI initiative is not the place to have these discussions.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks again to the Minister, but I am not sure how REDI is going to make us anymore ready for resource development. As I said, REDI is clearly focused on promoting resource development, and that is a good thing, and it is something that ITI does very well. No question about that. I mentioned a number of other initiatives that would help build public confidence in our resource management decisions including: a science advisor to Cabinet; re-establishment of a round table on the environment and economy; completion of land use plans; completion of our protected areas. Why are these initiatives not part of the REDI campaign?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** As I have said, I think we can agree to disagree. REDI is about a public information initiative to bring a whole government approach to all the things that relate to resource development. It is not about promoting resource development. It is about informing the general public of what concerns they can have,

and have one-on-one conversations with geologists, land inspectors, water inspectors, regulators, regulatory bodies, and that is what the initiative is, to help inform the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Sahtu.

QUESTION 917-18(2):  
MARINE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my question is directed to the Minister of DOI, acknowledging the statements made earlier. My first question is directed to the Marine Transportation Services department. How has MTS addressed the environmental issues within the properties purchased? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Infrastructure.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have addressed environmental issues in the short time that we have had this. Moving forward, we have identified and secured a number of habits that are just waste on our property, particularly in Hay River, and we are in the process of moving that from the shipyard. We are developing a plan to get rid of the scrap metal in the coming years. As many people know, the amount of derelict ships and boats that are in the Hay River shipyard that will have to be cut up, and removed, and abated. We are also in the process of doing our environment assessments on all our properties that came with the purchase of MTS.

**MR. MCNEELY:** Thanks to the Minister for that question of clarity on the disposal action plan. My next question is, did MTS generate any revenue other than through the community resupply?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Yes, we did. We had some contract work this year with a number of our vessels, and we went out and did that. We also did some maintenance work at the shipyard on the Canadian coast guard vessels that were stationed out of Hay River, and got them under way for their sailing season. We also did some work on some third party vessels in the Hay River shipyard.

**MR. MCNEELY:** Considering the third party revenues that came into this newly acquired division, did we make any money?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** At the appropriate time, we will be bringing forward the business plan for the past sailing season, the lessons learned. Once the sailing season is totally concluded and wrapped up, we will be able to bring that information forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. MCNEELY:** This is more of a comment. I look forward to the upcoming business plans you are scheduled for November so I will reserve that fourth question at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

QUESTION 918-18(2):  
AGING IN PLACE HOUSING NEEDS

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Marci cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement, I talked a bit about aging in place and some of the numbers around that. I would like to ask the Minister if she would commit to completing planning for aging in place prior to winter roads so that the process of allowing seniors to age in place can begin this summer. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of NWT Housing Corporation.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is actually just beginning to do a full study on seniors' needs, not only where they are most populated and where we should be building, but also what exactly they want within those buildings. We will be working with the Department of Health and Social Services because I know they have quite a bit of information. We will be working with the NWT Seniors' Society. We are looking at how better we can serve seniors, not only what their necessities are, but also what their wants are as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I think my question and my statement are mostly around senior homeowners; not what can be built for the seniors, but allowing the seniors to age in place in their own home, in their own community. That is the planning I am referring to, Mr. Speaker. Can I get the Minister to commit to completing that planning prior to winter roads?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** I do have to say that I am the Minister for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. I do not run the Department of Infrastructure, and I do hope the Department of Infrastructure is also working on winter roads because winter is right around the corner. I can say that we have 700 seniors currently in public housing units. We have 374 public housing units that are designated for seniors and/or disabled people. We built seniors' complexes within the last couple of years in Fort McPherson, Fort Good Hope, Fort Liard, Whati, and Aklavik.

We have increased programs for seniors. We have a seniors' retrofit program. They can qualify for the CARE Major, CARE Minor, or SAFE Program. The seniors' retrofit is on top of all those; so it can be compounded for their renovations. The biggest thing I want seniors to know, though, is our CARE PM program. That program will actually come in once a year and actually look at things such as your furnace, such as your hot water tank, to hopefully make sure that you will not have any problems over the winter months. The biggest thing, like I say, is to let all our seniors know, our elders know, in the communities, to apply for the CARE Preventative Maintenance, because that is the most effective way to provide services to seniors before crises happen.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I am not talking about construction of winter roads. I know that if I have a question on winter road construction, I would ask the Minister of Infrastructure. I am trying to get a feel for whether or not the Housing Corporation has done any planning at all. What I am referring to is home ownership, not public housing. That does not matter to me. We can continue to move seniors around in the appropriate public



housing in order that they remain in public housing as long as possible. I know that for sure. That is obvious. I am asking about seniors who are aging out of their houses, and what we need to do is make sure that they are able to remain in their homes. I am asking the Minister the question for that reason. Has the Minister determined the number of seniors across the NWT that can age in their own home, in their own community?

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** As stated earlier in my answers, we are actually just in the process of doing a full review of all services available to seniors, identifying how many seniors, what their needs are, and what the most effective way is to keep them not only in their homes, but comfortable, so that they can be in their homes and age in place. That process is just starting.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are approximately 2,900 households in need in the NWT. I would like to ask the Minister if the NWT Housing Corporation, in the last two years, has been able to divide that need into the four nuclear groups that I spoke of earlier.

**HON. CAROLINE COCHRANE:** Every five years, the government of the Northwest Territories does a statistical analysis of all the residents in the Northwest Territories. Part of that actually addresses the housing needs within the territories, and that gives us our core need report. The last one was done in 2014; so I am expecting that fairly soon another full report will be done. At that time, it will break down exactly where the core needs are, if it is suitability, adequacy, or affordability. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Nunakput.

QUESTION 919-18(2):  
IMPACTS OF PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION CANADA AIR SAFETY  
REGULATIONS ON NORTHERN AIRLINES

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier, I spoke about air transportation regulations, and my questions are for the Minister of Infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, my first question is: what is the GNWT's position on proposed federal regulatory air transport changes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Infrastructure.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As all Members know, safety of our passengers and our pilots is the number one concern of the Government of Northwest Territories when it comes to air travel. This one-size-fits-all for the regulatory change does not work well for the government of the Northwest Territories and particularly the airline industry on this approach. We are going to work very closely with our federal counterparts on ways to address the unique needs of our operators and our airports in the Northwest Territories, and we will hopefully do this through appropriate amendments to the federal regulations coming forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** I appreciate the response. Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time that specific issues to the Northwest Territories have been affected through federal regulations. I think it is time for a Northwest Territories 101 to federal Ministers so that they can closely understand our unique needs. Mr. Speaker, my second question is: what is the GNWT doing to intervene on behalf of the Northern aviation industry?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Just so Members know, on this particular regulation change, this is under the authority of Transport Canada with the federal government; so there is no direct role for the Government of Northwest Territories or myself or the department. Nevertheless, with that said, we know there are a lot of concerns with this going forward around flight times, flight duty times, rest periods, and travel times, of that type of nature.

We expect that the proposed regulations, if they were to go forward the way they are presented, would have a serious impact on residents of the Northwest Territories and its passengers and shipping and cargo. We are keeping a very close eye on this. We will continue to monitor the proposed changes of the Canadian Aviation Regulations, and we will be pressing our federal counterparts and make sure they are very aware of our unique challenges of the Northwest Territories.

**MR. NAKIMAYAK:** It is good to see that the Minister is looking at this. Mr. Speaker, my final question is: will the Minister commit to speaking with his counterparts in the Yukon and Nunavut to urgently develop a Northern position on these proposed changes?

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** I regularly talk to my counterparts in the Yukon and Nunavut on a broad range of issues. With this one in particular, I am sure we are going to have more conversations, particularly with Nunavut, as they are a little bit more remote and face more challenges than the Yukon and very similar to us. We will continue to press the federal government, I imagine, all on the same page moving forward, in particular, possibly as soon as the next FTP meeting around transportation.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

QUESTION 920-18(2):  
AVENS FUNDING AND OPERATIONAL REVIEW

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to continue my questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. My first question is: how long is he prepared to wait for Avens to get itself into a position for providing a day program? Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Avens, as I indicated, has always been a fantastic partner for the provision of services for seniors here in Yellowknife and, really, for residents across the Northwest Territories. They are having some financial difficulties right now. They are trying to ensure that they are spending their money wisely, and we are working closely with Avens right now to make sure that they can continue to move forward to provide core services. We obviously would like them to continue day services, but we really need to understand where they

are financially. Once we have a better sense, we'll be in a position to determine whether or not we can help them more in the area of day program or whether we're going to have to look outside, but we do need a little bit of time to work with Avens to see where we are, see where they are, and figure out a path forward. I don't intend to wait like a huge amount of time, but I do out of respect for our far-out partners want to make sure that we are working with them with them as closely as we can in the likelihood that they will be able to provide those services in the future, and if not, we'll find another way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the spring session, the Minister said that Avens had requested an operational review to "look at how they are spending their money to make sure they are getting the dollars being allocated and they are using them to maximum effect." Has the Minister agreed to fund this review? Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Health and Social Services.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Avens is an incredibly important partner. We're working closely right now with them to look at the different areas where they're having some financial pressure. One of the things that's come up is the decrease in revenues and how that's affecting the overall operations. We're working closely with Avens to explore these different things, find out what's happening, and find a way to ensure that they're getting the money they need and that the money that they're getting is being spent on the core services that they're so good at providing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is the Minister funding an operational review of Avens at this time? Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Health and Social Services.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're not funding an operational review at this point in time, but we are working closely with them to do an analysis of their programs or services and the areas that we provide funding. The department of flows funding for operations of Avens Manor long-term care facility for the operation of Avens cottages, the operation of the territorial dementia facility through the NWT Health and Social Services Authority. The three groups are working together to figure out how those dollars are being allocated, if it's enough, if it's not enough, how we can improve services, and we're working closely with our partner. This is a partnership, Mr. Speaker. We're not looking to impose anything on this point. They want to be involved. We want to be involved. We're working together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife Centre.

**MS. GREEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Avens Manor and Avens dementia cottages together lost almost \$200,000 in the last fiscal year. Granted, that's less than the year before, but it's still not a sustainable position for Avens to be in. I would like the

Minister to talk about what he thinks the possible solutions are, especially with respect to revenue. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Health and Social Services.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the things we've talked about in this House before is looking at the rates that are being charged for different long-term care facilities in the Northwest Territories per bed, but with Avens as an example, we have taken some steps already. Last month, September, the department provided Avens with funding to pay the major loan that has been taken to do some site preparation, so we paid off their \$1.1 million loan which is going to help them address some of their costs with respect to paying back that loan but also some of the interest costs on that loan. We are doing things immediately. We are trying to help them address some of their pressures. Some of the things are going to take a little bit more time, but we're working with them to identify where they feel some changes need to be made and how we can work together to make sure that Avens continues to be sustainable in the long-term. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

#### QUESTION 921-18(2):

#### REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES PROCUREMENT POLICIES

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government's spending is approximately equivalent to 52 per cent of our GDP. That's \$3.854 billion. This compares to, let's talk a promise in Canada, Ontario, our largest. Their government spending amounts to 20 per cent of GDP, so clearly our government has a huge role in this economy. A lot of that comes out of procurement of these contracts. I'd like to ask the Minister of Infrastructure if he will once again commit to a comprehensive review of our procurement policies on this very important economic driver. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Minister of Infrastructure.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've been on record. I've told the Member a number of times in this House, no, I will not review the procurement nature of the department. We're all working on the mandate of this Legislative Assembly. A number of initiatives fall under my departments, which are directly related to economic development in the Northwest Territories. We're pushing on those mandate items and we will continue to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought ahead of the mid-term review, I might gain some more traction on this issue. It's true, the Minister does have a number of mandate commitments, but procurement is an ongoing issue of every government and doesn't need a specific mandate commitment especially when the concerns are out there.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister about prompt payment. Prompt payment is a practice for businesses who are required to agree to a fair and reasonable terms of their suppliers, ensures suppliers' invoices are approved and paid within agreed terms, and to encourage the adoption of the same practices through their supply chain. Is the Minister aware of this concept and does the department practice it? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Minister of Infrastructure.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'm well aware of the department's mandate to do prompt payment. I believe most of the payments, not always because there are always circumstances around every challenging one that comes forward but we're supposed to pay within 20 days of receipt of an invoice and that's what we will continue to do as a department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, our government is on the ball on this. It's more about the suppliers, people down on the supply chain. We enter into very large contracts, so prompt payment is an important issue as we move down the supply chain. Mr. Speaker, the Ontario government is now considering prompt payment legislation that will create a prompt payment regime and require a mandatory adjudication of certain disputes within construction. Is the Minister familiar with this legislation and is he reviewing our own legislation in light of that? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Minister of Infrastructure.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I am not aware of the legislation Ontario is proposing to move forward, but if the Member wants to share that with me, I'm glad to have a look at it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Minister. I'll gladly share that. The Canadian Senate is also considering a bill, the Canada Prompt Payment Act that would apply to construction contracts and P3 projects in particular. These P3 contracts the federal government enters into, its institutions, agencies, and related subcontracts. We are now pursuing P3 projects from everything from the Stanton Hospital to the Tli Cho all-season road. P3s are becoming part of how we do business. Is the Minister aware of any prompt payment clauses in those P3 projects that ensure our northern businesses are given the payment they deserve through their work with these large contracts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Minister of Infrastructure.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I'm not aware of the prompt payment program if we have one under P3. P3 falls under the Minister of Finance, but we'll be glad to look at any ideas that Members want to share to help alleviate the situation for businesses that have done the work and completed on time and done a successful job. If there's a hold-up on payment, we would certainly have a look at anything to help facilitate that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Member for Nahendeh.

QUESTION 922-18(2):  
WILDLIFE OFFICERS

**MR. THOMPSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we all know we're in the hunting season. Right now, the residents of Nahendeh have seen a large influx of out-of-town hunters around on the roads and in the river. Unfortunately, we're not seeing the wildlife officers out there or if they're out there, we're not seeing them right now. People are concerned about that because we're not sure if these hunters have valid hunter's licenses and are following the rules. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources explain how wildlife officers are scheduled during the hunting season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Wildlife officers are on regular duty from Monday to Friday 8:30 to 5 o'clock. During busy hunting season, schedule can be adjusted to provide additional coverage when and where needed. Also, we can bring in additional resource officers from other communities or regions if there is a need in a particular area. There are renewable resource officers on call 24 hours a day in each region, with the contact information posted on the GNWT website and Hunting Guide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for that answer. I guess the big concern is that when we see the hunters, it is usually on Friday to Sunday and Monday. We are hoping, with the Minister's permission, that they can start working with the department and the communities about this. The other issue is with these non-residents that come in is that they are leaving garbage, and they are using people's cabins. Is this something that the department does monitor, or is it just that people are able to leave garbage and use whatever facilities are available to them?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** As I said before to the Member's first point, the schedules can be adjusted during busy hunting season. It is something that we can have a look at. To his second point, no, we do not have a mandate or the authority to deal with issues around trespass or the use of other people's property.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for both answers. It is unfortunate. I have had concerns from our residents saying that we have hunters using their cabins, and that is unfortunate. I respect that they do not have jurisdiction on it. I could probably answer this question as well, but I am going to ask the Minister anyway. What are the department officers able to do when they are out there and they see people under the influence, whether it is on the road or in boats? What is their role? What can they do to address this issue?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Again, to the Member's first point about the use of personal cabins, a lot of it is common sense. Some people will leave their cabins open, allowing other people to use them in case of emergency, and they have to respect that person's cabin. It is a practice that has been going on for a long time, but again, it is common sense that people need to respect the personal property of others.

To the Member's second point, the renewable resource officers have no authority to enforce alcohol-related infractions, but because they are peace officers, they can report the infraction to the RCMP. However, there are provisions in the Wildlife Act regarding harvesting in an unsafe manner, and that can be enforceable by the renewable resource officers.

**MR. THOMPSON:** I thank the Minister for that information. I will be sharing this information with my residents that have concerns, and I thank him for that. I guess my last question here is: can the Minister explain what the process is for out-of-town hunters or out-of-territory hunters to come in and check in so that we are aware that they are out there?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Every person that is a non-resident or a non-resident alien must have a licence, a tag, and engage the services of an outfitter. There is a mandatory reporting of their harvest, and outfitters and their clients say they provide meat to local community organizations, who distribute that meat amongst their members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Deh Cho.

QUESTION 923-18(2):  
ELDER ABUSE

**MR. NADLI:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier I spoke about elder abuse in communities, and two years ago this government developed a strategy. My question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. What actions has the department taken in the last year to act on the recommendation and needs outlined in the strategy, creating safe communities for older adults? Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Health and Social Services.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department provides about \$205,000 annually to the NWT Seniors' Society, and they do a number of things with those dollars. They support the Senior Citizens' Month. They support the Senior Citizens' Advisory Council. They also provide community outreach programs. Of that \$205,000, \$90,000 is allocated to support the Network to Prevent Abuse of Older Adults and different activities.

This has also led to a significant number of resources that are available. I believe they are on the NWT Seniors' Society website, but they are also on the GNWT website and the NWT Health and Social Services website. That actually can direct seniors to resources that exist or programs that they can go to support them if they feel that abuse is occurring and direct them to where they might be able to get assistance, guidance, or help. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. NADLI:** My elders are seeking reassurances. My second question to the Minister is: can the Minister provide an update on the piloting of elder abuse screening tools in territorial seniors' programs and, also, in particular communities?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Much of that work has been done, but much of that work is also ongoing. It continues to evolve. It is one of the items in the Continuing Care Action Plan. Actually, it is in objective number one. I believe it is on page 5 that it talks about elder abuse, and it is continuing the work that we are doing in partnership with the NWT Seniors' Society to finalize a standard set of elder abuse screening tools and to test those tools as well. It also includes protocols and intervention procedures for youth by a different health care provider. When an individual comes into a health centre, as an example, and it is identified that they might be a victim of elder abuse, what they can do and how the staff can recognize it.

Much of that work is proceeding. Some of it is done, others still need to be done, and we will continue to keep committee updated on that information, but also work with our communities to make sure that that information is out and available to elders. To that end, we are also going to be including those types of things in the elders' handbook, which I will be tabling later today. As those tools are developed, there will certainly be linkages to them in those documents.

**MR. NADLI:** The Minister clearly states that the action of the government is evolving, and again, elders seek reassurance. If there are indeed screening tools within the strategy and the department is employing those, what are the next steps for those who have flagged the abuse and for the elders themselves in terms of the screening tools that are employed by the department?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** The department is just one of the partners in putting these tools together. The NWT Seniors' Society is also a key partner in the work that has been done in this area. We are certainly going to work with the NWT Seniors' Society as well as other seniors' societies to find the best way to get that information out to seniors. I know that the NWT Seniors' Society, through the NWT Network to Prevent Abuse of Older Adults, have been around since 2009, and they try to get information out to our seniors and to our elders across the Northwest Territories. We are going to continue to work with them to find the mechanisms to get that information out that work best for the residents in small communities, large communities, and regional centres.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Deh Cho.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, the government has the strategy for creating safe communities for older adults. My last question is: are we meeting the goals of the strategy, and could the Minister provide a substantive example of the concrete steps that his department has undertaken to ensure that elders are no longer being abused in communities?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** I think one of the concrete things that we are doing is actually providing the money to the NWT Seniors' Society to do the work around prevention and awareness and through the Network to Prevent Abuse of Older Adults. We are providing them money. We are working with them to get the information out. We are working on those different screening tools to make sure those are available to our health practitioners so that when individuals come in who are victims of abuse, they are recognized, and they are directed appropriately.



This work continues to evolve as new information becomes available and as new things are happening. As technology changes, these things will continue to evolve. We will be, at a point in time, but it is important to acknowledge that these things will be continuing to evolve as time goes on and as technology changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife North.

QUESTION 924-18(2):  
REPLACEMENT GENERATORS CONTRACT AND COSTS

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the tradition of asking questions to the Minister responsible for NWT Power Corporation, I think I have a few more for him today. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move beyond the fact that there might be this circumstance that we have to face as it relates to not getting these generators at the end of the day that were supposed to come from Viridi Power out of California. If there is in fact the chance that we aren't going to get them, we know that there is a potential loss there for not hundreds of thousands, in fact, millions of dollars. The Minister did indicate in this House that there might have to be a consideration to write that off, but that means someone's going to have to pay. My question to the Minister is how will the Power Corporation intend to recoup those losses? Will it come in the form of rate increases or will it come in the form of a government subsidy from this government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for NWT Power Corporation.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Mr. Speaker, I understand from our inspector in California that things are moving ahead, so some final inspections are being done on the products and I hope to be able to provide us with some good information in the next few weeks that the generators have arrived. I can't provide that information yet, but final inspections are being done, so I'm much more optimistic than I have been in the last few weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife North.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That honestly is some positive news. I hope that we can get a little bit more detail from the Minister as to when they will actually arrive. In the meantime, I would like to ask the Minister then given that these are nearly three years old overdue in terms of receiving them, we've been incurring a lot of costs as it relates to putting in temporary backup generators. Can the Minister tell this House what kind of costs we have incurred in the meantime while having not received these generators to date and almost being three years late. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for NWT Power Corporation.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** You're quite correct. There certainly has been a lengthy delivery in the delivery of these generators as I mentioned. The prior question, I am hopeful that we will receive them. I believe that the plan is that should there be additional costs, we will see compensation from Viridi Power. There may be issues in being able to do because of Verdi's situation, but there should be a set-off of any money

that we owe them for any additional costs that we have incurred. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. I'd just like to remind Members that before speaking, wait for the red light to go on so the mike will be on. Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife North.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The point I'm trying to raise is that at one point in time I asked a question that was asking for clarification on how much costs we had incurred ourselves for back-up generators and the like in the meantime while waiting for these generators. As of last February and March when I put the question to the Minister, it was around \$500,000 at that time. I'd like clarification on what that number is today because that was back in February and March so that's a number of months ago. Can the Minister give us clarification on how much costs we've incurred to date while waiting for these generators to get here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for NWT Power Corporation.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have that figure but will be seeking it and will provide it to the House if requested. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Member for Yellowknife North.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At that time, it was the \$500,000. Now it's obviously going to be more. We've incurred more costs since then. We still haven't received the generators. The Minister has indicated that it will be Viridi Power that will have to incur these costs. We'll be taking it apparently off of their contract. At what point, I mean can the Minister please maybe remind us what the value of the contract to begin with was and at what point do they having to pay us instead of us having to pay them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for NWT Power Corporation.

**HON. LOUIS SEBERT:** The contract, Mr. Speaker, was for several million dollars. I don't have the exact figure in front of me. However, I would be happy to provide it to Members opposite. Again, there may be some set-off if there are additional costs incurred by us for the late delivery. Again, I will certainly keep the Members opposite posted as to progress in this matter. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

QUESTION 925-18(2):  
UPDATE ON MANUFACTURING STRATEGY

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister of ITI a question about a mandate item that he's been working on for some time now, an update on the manufacturing strategy. Can the Minister provide one to this House? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The manufacturing strategy, the department has recently sat down and met with all of the manufacturers in the North

Slave and the South Slave and had a discussion on how we're going to move forward. I believe we are in the process of allocating some money towards some sit-down conversations that we're going to have with the manufacturing group and the Northwest Territories can come up with a plan forward on the strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the update from the Minister. What kind of timeline are we looking at before a draft strategy can be presented to the House? We can get some sense of where this work is ending up. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I won't be able to give you an exact draft timeline because it depends on the challenges and conversations that we have with the manufacturers and the needs that we are going to need to help address them to be able to deliver a product to the Government of the Northwest Territories and residents of the NWT in a fashion that is economically beneficial to them and also to the residents of the Northwest Territories. It's pretty hard to have a timeline until we have the discussions with the manufacturers on the challenges going forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the biggest challenges for manufacturers is the high cost of operating a manufacturing facility in the Northwest Territories. Will the Minister commit to making this a costed plan that has dollar amounts attached to it so it gets a real sense? The department has done this before with the Economic Opportunity Strategy. Can the Minister make that commitment to put some money behind this one? Not just words and we can actually give a boost to our manufacturing industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Mr. Speaker, I could speak to this directly as I was a manufacturer before I got elected. It's not always about money. It's about the process, about getting information out there of what's directly available to the government of Northwest Territories in particular, about the round of procurement issues. There are these types of challenges. I personally do not think it's about putting money towards a strategy or off-setting a cost. There's already a 30 per cent allotment to manufacturers for their product to be in the Northwest Territories and we built here. These are conversations that we are going to have to have with the manufacturers moving forward and what types of challenges we need to address. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Member for Kam Lake.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's experience and his response on that. I also appreciate that he's talking about procurement again. Maybe there is a need to look at this. Will the Minister look at procurement including any proposed reforms through the process of the manufacturing strategy? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

**HON. WALLY SCHUMANN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These are discussions that we're going to have like I said with the manufacturing strategy. One thing I can say around procurement: when we go out and have our conversations with members of the public service that do delivery of procurement, there is this discussion around the manufacturers in the Northwest Territories. We highlight who are the manufacturers, which products are available to them, and which communities they are based in, and we are continually educating people within the department on the manufacturers in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Member for Frame Lake.

QUESTION 926-18(2):  
LIQUOR LICENSING REVIEW

**MR. O'REILLY:** Merci, Monsieur le President. My questions are for the Minister of Finance and I apologize. I didn't give him a heads up before getting in here but I've had concerns raised to me by constituents about liquor licensing here in Yellowknife. I believe I heard the Minister say earlier in this sitting that he was going to that he was going to be conducting a review of liquor licensing. I think that that would also include some public engagements. Can the Minister just talk to us a little bit about the scope of that review of liquor licensing? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Minister of Finance.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we were going to look at the liquor licensing across the Northwest Territories, and when the Member stands up to ask his second question, if he would take a little bit of time so that I could pull it up in a brief and note, I would be happy to respond.

**MR. O'REILLY:** I am glad he has done the heavy lifting and he has got his briefing binder on his desk now. I had asked about the scope of the review, and I believe he committed to some public engagements around that. Maybe I could get the Minister to commit to provide more information to this side of the House, and perhaps even to the public about what the scope of this review is going to entail?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I can commit to providing a scope of the review to Members, and then, I think we will be in a position to share that review with the public. As I committed to it, I think earlier in this session, we are hoping to get some public input into the review. I will make that commitment that we will work with Members and make sure we get the information out to the public.

**MR. O'REILLY:** I want to thank the Minister for that, and I know I put him on the spot, but that is what I was hoping to hear. I mentioned earlier how I have had some constituents raise these issues with me. Would the Minister be willing to meet informally with Yellowknife business owners, operators, to discuss improvements to our liquor licensing? Is that something the Minister would be prepared to commit to?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** I have had an opportunity to meet with one of the manufacturers here in the capital along with a Member from Yellowknife North, and a very productive meeting. They made a lot of their concerns known, and I think we took that away and we realized that they had a very valid point, so I think we were trying to take steps to address that. There will be an opportunity for the businesses to have input, and if they require a meeting of myself, then, I am sure I can make arrangements to have a sit down with them as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Time for oral questions have expired. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

### **Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Colleagues, I would like to draw your attention to visitors in the gallery. We have with us Elaine Keenan-Bengts who is the Information and Privacy Commissioner. Later on today, we will be tabling her document in the House. Welcome. Item 9, written questions. Item 10, returns to written questions. Item 11, replies to Commissioner's opening address. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Minister of Health and Social Services.

### **Tabling of Documents**

TABLED DOCUMENT 462-18(2):  
SENIORS' INFORMATION HANDBOOK, SEPTEMBER 2017

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled "Seniors' Information Handbook, September 2017." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Tabling of documents. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

TABLED DOCUMENT 463-18(2):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTION 852-18(2): MANAGEMENT OF  
NORTHERN WATER RESOURCES

TABLED DOCUMENT 464-18(2):  
FOLLOW-UP LETTER FOR ORAL QUESTIONS 864-18(2): SPECIES AT RISK  
PROTECTION OF CARIBOU

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following two documents entitled "Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 852-18(2), Management of Northern Water Resources," and "Follow-up Letter for Oral Questions 864-18(2), Species at Risk Protection of Caribou." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Tabling of documents.

TABLED DOCUMENT 465-18(2):  
2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSION  
OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TABLED DOCUMENT 466-18(2):  
2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HUMAN  
RIGHTS COMMISSION

TABLED DOCUMENT 467-18(2):  
SUMMARY OF MEMBERS' ABSENCES FOR THE PERIOD MAY 25, 2017 TO  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

Pursuant to section 68 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, I wish to table the "2016-2017 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commission of the Northwest Territories." I would like to draw your attention to members present, to Elaine Keenan-Bengts who is the Information and Privacy Commissioner. Masi for joining us.

Pursuant to section 21 of the Human Rights Act, I wish to table the "2016-2017 Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission." Members, also please join me in welcoming Mr. Yacub Adams, member of the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission who is also in the gallery with us today. Masi.

Pursuant to section 5 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I wish to table the "Summary of Members' Absences for the Period May 25, 2017 to September 18, 2017."

Masi. Tabling of Documents. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of Bills. Minister of Finance.

### **First Reading of Bills**

BILL 33:  
APPROPRIATION ACT  
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),  
2018-2019

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Bill 33, Appropriation Act, (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2018-2019 be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried.

Masi. Bill 33 has had its first reading. Item 19, second reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

### **Second Reading of Bills**

**BILL 33:  
APPROPRIATION ACT  
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),  
2018-2019**

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Bill 33, Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2018-2019 be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Government of the Northwest Territories to make appropriations for infrastructure expenditures for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried.

Bill 33 has had its second reading. Second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters. Bill 27; Committee Report 112-18(2); Minister's Statement 186-18(2); Tabled Document 419-18(2), with the Member for Hay River North in the chair.

### **Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters**

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** I will now call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Marci cho, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the committee would like to consider Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. First, a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** I will now call Committee of the Whole back to order. Committee, we have agreed to consider Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act. I will ask the Minister responsible for the bill to introduce it. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I am here to introduce Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act.

This bill makes several amendments to the act. It will:

- remove the non-application provision;
- authorize the Minister to determine that discharges are nuisances;
- authorize the Minister to establish and make publicly available a register regarding environmental contaminants;
- authorize the Minister to exempt persons from complying with the act or regulations in accordance with the regulations in place;
- create a new exception to the prohibition against releasing contaminants for discharges authorized under other legislation, and provides that the exception to the prohibition does not apply to nuisance discharges;
- allow for regulation of the manufacture, use, installation, removal, and modification of equipment that discharges contaminants, including measures designed to control the release of contaminants; and
- provide the Minister with regulation-making authority, particularly for making air regulations.

The amended EPA will also require persons intending to discharge a contaminant:

- to be authorized by this act or the regulations,
- to register with the Minister,
- to obtain a license or permit, and/or
- to provide the prescribed information.

With air quality in the NWT presently unregulated, the amendments I have described will enable the air regulatory gap to be closed through development of air regulations that are tailored for the Northwest Territories context. Significant consultation and engagement on these amendments has been conducted. We feel these amendments strike a good balance between flexibility and reflecting a modern environmental regime. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. I will turn to the chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment, the committee that considered the bill, for opening comments. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment concluded its review of Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act on September 26, 2017, with a public clause-by-clause review held here at the Legislative Assembly building. This followed an initial public hearing on the bill held on August 29, 2017. The committee received no public submissions on the bill and carried one motion to amend the bill during clause-by-clause review.



Individual members may have additional comments or questions as we proceed with consideration of this bill. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Would the Minister like to bring any witnesses into the House?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Yes, I would, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber. Minister, would you please introduce your witnesses for the record?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, to my right, I have Dr. Joe Dragon, who is the Deputy Minister of Environmental and Natural Resources; to my left, I have Lisa Dyer, who is the director of Environment, Environmental and Natural Resources; and to my far right, I have Mr. Thomas Druyan, legislative counsel, Department of Justice. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. The general process for this is that we will have general comments, and then we will go into a clause-by-clause review of the bill. We can begin with general comments. Does committee have any general comments on Bill 27? Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. We have had quite a bit of discussion around this; so I will try to keep it brief. I think that everybody would agree that we have a common and shared interest in protecting the environment and making sure that we get this very first piece of post-devolution environmental legislation right and that it should really reflect best practises.

I think it is fair to say that the one remaining area where concerns have been expressed is around ministerial authority to grant exemptions from any or all provisions of the act and its regulations. During the public review process of earlier versions of the bill and, indeed, parts of the one that are before us today, concerns have been raised around this exemption authority by the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Fort Chipewyan Metis, the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board, the West Point First Nation, the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency, myself, and the standing committee as well.

I agree that there have been some improvements made as a result of the clause-by-clause review, and I thank the Minister for that, but I think there is one remaining area that I would like to deal with when we get to the appropriate place in the clause-by-clause review of the bill. I think it is important that we do try to move this forward, and I think that one further improvement will even keep me happier. With that, Mr. Chair, I would like to hear from the Minister, and maybe we can proceed, unless other Members have comments. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Any other general comments? Seeing none, we can proceed to a clause-by-clause review of the bill. We will defer the bill number and title until after consideration of the clauses. Please turn to page 2 of the bill. There are seven clauses. We will go through each individually. I will call them out. If committee agrees, please say "agreed." Is committee ready? Clause 1.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Clause 2.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. Clause 3. Mr. O'Reilly.

COMMITTEE MOTION 111-18(2):  
BILL 27, AN ACT TO AMEND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT –  
AMENDMENT TO CLAUSE 3 –ADDITION OF SUBCLAUSE 3.1,  
CARRIED

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. Yes, I would like to move an amendment to clause 3. I believe the amendments are at your table, and then you are going to be passing them out. Shall I wait until it is passed out, or shall I read it out?

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Please read out the motion.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I move that Bill 27 be amended by adding the following after clause 3:

3.1. The following is added after section 2.01:

(1) The Commissioner in Executive Council may, in accordance with the regulations, exempt any person or class of persons, equipment or contaminant from all or any provision of this act or the regulations.

(2) If the Commissioner in Executive Council intends to exempt any person or class of persons, equipment or contaminant from all or any provision of this Act or the regulations, the Commissioner in Executive Council shall

(a) make notice of the proposed exemption publicly available; and

(b) provide the public with a reasonable opportunity to make representations with respect to the proposed exemption.

(3) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2), if the Minister is of the opinion that an emergency situation requires an immediate response, the Minister may exempt any person or class of persons, equipment or contaminant from all or any provision of this Act or the regulations, without providing either notice of the proposed exemption or an opportunity to make representations with respect to it.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. There's a motion on the floor. The motion has been distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I'll try to keep this brief as well. I think it's important to understand that there is no ability to make exemptions in the act as it stands today. The Minister would like to include an exemption making authority in the act. I would prefer if it was restricted to emergency situations alone, but the way that it reads now is that the Minister would have the ability to make exemptions for emergencies, but if it's

not an emergency situation, the Minister would have that ability to make an exemption by providing public notice and providing reasonable opportunity for the public to make representations.

That exemption-making authority is not found in some of our other environmental legislation, most notably the Water Act. Certainly, when committee was studying the bill, we understood that in most other Canadian jurisdictions, the authority to make exemptions is with Cabinet, not the Minister alone. Given that we have a consensus government here and that there are other departments that would have an interest in making or in weighing in perhaps on an exemption. I'll give one example: Health and Social Services. It's certainly in my view that a decision to make an exemption in a non-emergency situation does require serious consideration and involvement of all Cabinet. It's my view that the authority should properly rest with the Cabinet rather than the Minister alone. That's what this amendment is about. I think those are all the comments that I have for now, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the opportunity to bring this forward. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I support this amendment. It strikes a good balance between the need for expediency in emergency situations while still allowing collective decision-making at the Cabinet level when a request for exemption comes forward. The reason why it's important to have that collective decision-making in my perspective is exemptions may come from any area and it may be a low-emissions industrial actor, something like that where these regulations might unduly impact their economic success.

Having the perspective of more than one department – sorry, I should say more than one Minister who has of course advised by the department, but having more than one perspective on the issue whether it's the Department of Health, whether it's the Department of Industry, Tourism, Investment and represented through their Ministers, it allows for a broader range of opinions on proposed exemptions. It allows sharing of that important power. We are talking about exempting people from law. I think kicking this to the commissioner and executive counsel encourages collective decision-making is more in keeping with consensus. As we've seen from issues very close to my heart such as the arsenic in Kam Lake, we have often been in the situation where one branch of government is well aware of the issues of contaminants in the environment and another branch of government is not aware of those issues.

To break down the silos and bring a whole government approach to exemption making authority, I think is the real spirit of our intent of this amendment and I do support it for those reasons. For anyone who's concerned that there might be an urgent need to grant an exemption, that power is also contemplated here in this amendment as well. It does strike that balance. That's exactly the purpose of good legislation is to balance all interest equally and to ensure that authority is shared appropriately. You never know, you may have one Minister with a different perspective on the environment and the economy and how they need to work together that might need help from colleagues on the executive council side to make an informed decision about exemptions. This allows

that to happen. I do support this. I encourage honourable Members of this House to do so as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Testart. Mr. Vanthuyne.

**MR. VANTHUYNE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Similarly, during the debates around this when the standing committee was discussing it, this was something that I had considered and supported at that time. I just think that when you're giving consideration to essentially our first post-devolution bill that this just makes good sense. It's good communications practice, quite frankly.

As others have alluded to, there can be circumstances where an environmental situation overlaps a number of our departments whether it's lands, ENR, ITI, Health. For those reasons, it makes sense to me that we would want it to be Cabinet. That allows these exemptions to take place. This motion still, as others alluded to, covers off on the emergency aspects that will still come under the Minister responsible.

For those reasons and lastly I actually want to add that I think it's important that Cabinet knows so that they can report accordingly through and down to their respective – not down, that's the wrong word to use – but report accordingly to their respective departments just in case there's any need for their department to be prepared in any way, shape, or form if an exemption were to be had. For those reasons, Mr. Chair, I'll be in support of this motion. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. Vanthuyne. Further comments to the motion? Mr. McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, one of the reasons we wanted this motion or the Minister to have the authority to grant the exemptions is in emergency situations, there may be exemptions that may need to be granted. I can assure Members that and it is tied to regulations. Bill 27 received assent. I can't go out tomorrow and start granting exemptions. We have exemptions. I think we had a discussion when we brought this before committee. We have talked about making it a public process and we did manage to get that amendment into the bill where we go through a public process if time permits, but there are times where a Minister will need to make a decision.

One of the things we don't want to do too is, you waste a lot of things by unnecessary processes or red tape, try and have things flow through smoothly. A Member made reference before about the comments that were received by some organizations across from the Northwest Territories as to the bill. We got feedback. There was some concern raised with the Minister's ability to grant exemptions. We responded to them and we explained to them how the process was going to work. We have not heard back from them. We take that as they're comfortable with the fact that exemptions will be tied to regulation. There are also opportunities again if time permits, to have a lot of public input, and I made that commitment when we made the amendment to Bill 27 for our consideration in committee. We have heard from a number of people across the Northwest Territories. We heard from Aboriginal governments and organizations, 265

stakeholders, and 99 Aboriginal governments and organizations were involved during the second round of consultations.

We are obviously not going to support the motion. I have a lot of trust and faith in our department and the Minister's ability to do what is right for the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Minister. Seeing no further comments, I will allow the mover of the motion to close debate. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to address one item that the Minister raised, and that was about emergency situations. The amendment would preserve the ability for the Minister to make exemptions in emergency situations, and I think that is a good thing. It is still in this amendment, but where an exemption is not based on an emergency situation, the issue is where that authority should rest. Should it rest with the Minister or Cabinet as a whole? I still believe that it should rest with Cabinet as a whole. It is a collective decision and make sure that all the Ministers are involved in that. I would hope that my Cabinet colleagues could support this in the spirit of consensus government. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

The motion is carried. Clause 3, as amended.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Clause 4.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Mr. O'Reilly.

COMMITTEE MOTION 112-18(2):  
BILL 27: AN ACT TO AMEND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT –  
AMENDMENT TO CLAUSE 4 – DELETION OF SUBCLAUSE 4(2),  
CARRIED

**MR. O'REILLY:** Sorry. Yes, there is one other amendment here, Mr. Chair. It is just to tidy up what we did with the last amendment, and if I may move it, Mr. Chair, that subclause 4(2) of Bill 27 be deleted. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is being distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. O'Reilly.

**MR. O'REILLY:** Thanks, Mr. Chair. All this motion really does is delete the part of the bill that would have had the authority rest with the Minister to make exemptions. We

have now changed that already; so this is just a consequential amendment. I do not think I need to say anything further. Thanks, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

The motion is carried. Clause 4, as amended.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Clause 5.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Clause 6.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Clause 7.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Committee, to the bill as a whole. Does committee agree that Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act, reprint, as amended, is now ready for third reading?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Bill 27 is now ready for third reading. Does committee agree that this concludes our consideration of Bill 27?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you, committee. Thank you to the Minister and your witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, you may escort the witnesses from the Chamber.

What is the wish of committee? Mr. Testart.

**MR. TESTART:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the chair rise and report progress. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson):** Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is in order and non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

The motion is carried. I will now rise and report progress. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** May I have the report, Member for Hay River North?

### Report of Committee of the Whole

**MR. SIMPSON:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act. I would like to report that Bill 27 is ready for third reading as amended, and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. Do we have a seconder? Member for Frame Lake. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

The motion is carried. Masi. Item 22, third reading of bills. Minister of Finance.

### Third Reading of Bills

BILL 33,  
APPROPRIATION ACT  
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),  
2018-2019

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Bill 33, Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2018-2019 be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi. The Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill? Member for Kam Lake?

**MR. TESTART:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to request a recorded vote.

### RECORDED VOTE

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Member has requested a recorded vote. To the principle of the bill?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour, please stand.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, the Member for Hay River South, the Member for Thebacha, the Member for Hay River North, the Member for Mackenzie Delta, the Member for Sahtu, the Member for Yellowknife North, the Member for Kam Lake, the Member for Nahendeh, the Member for Frame Lake, the Member for Yellowknife Centre, the Member for Deh Cho, the Member for Nunakput, the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, the Member for Range Lake, the Member for Great Slave.

**MR. SPEAKER:** All those opposed, please stand. All those abstaining, please stand.

The results of the votes: 16 in favour; zero opposed; zero abstentions.

---Carried

Bill 33 has had its third reading. Masi. Third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

### **Orders of the Day**

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** The orders of the day for Wednesday, October 4, 2017, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Commissioner's Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Committee Report 12-18(2), Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning Report on the Progress Review of the Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019
  - Minister's Statement 186-18(2), Update on the A New Day Program



- Tabled Document 419-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019 (Revised)

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act

23. Prorogation.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Masi, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, October 4, 2017, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned 4:29 p.m.